

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02193 111944Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SY-05 MCT-01 DHA-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 ARAE-00 /058 W
-----112007Z 024866 /73

O 111915Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 4271
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2193

BUENOS AIRES FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINS, PINT
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER

1. MAURICIO BORGONOVO'S BODY WAS FOUND IN THE LATE HOURS OF MAY 10
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SANTA TECLA (SUBURB FIVE MILES FROM SAN SALVA-
DOR). HE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN EXECUTED BY HIJ FPL CAPTORS
AT APPROXIMATELY 1700 HOURS THAT SAME AFTERNOON. THE EMBASSY
HAS HEARD THE FULL TEXT OF A FPL COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINING ITS
ACTION. THE MESSAGE CLAIMED:
THE GOES QTE A FASCIST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP UNQTE HAD
CLOSED ALL AVENUES TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION, DESPITE NATIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL APPEALS THAT IT DEAL WITH THE RANSOM DEMANDS;
THE GOVERNMENT SHOWED ITS BAD FAITH BY INCREASING ITS RE-
PRESSIVENESS, WITNESS THE BRUTAL EVENTS AND DEATHS OF MAY 1;
THE FPL HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS GOOD WILL BY GIVING
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THE GOES AMPLE TIME TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER ITS OPTIONS,
AND LISTEN TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. SINCE THE GOES DECISION
WAS TO DENY THE EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS,
NOT LISTEN TO WORLD PLEAS (POPE, UN SEC GEN, ETC), AND ENGAGE
IN FURTHER REPRESSION, THE FPL HIGH COMMAND HAD CARRIED OUT
THE EXECUTION.
2. THE FPL THUS STUCK TO ITS ORIGINAL DEMANDS TO THE END.

THESE WERE: THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS; NEGOTIATION IN FULL PUBLIC VIEW; ACCESS TO THE MEDIA FOR ITS COMMUNIQUE; AND NO SEARCH FOR THE KIDNAPPERS. THE GOVERNMENT COMPLIED WITH THE LATTER TWO PENDING ITS DECISION ON THE BASIC QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO NEGOTIATE. AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 29 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE, THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY BEGAN WIDESPREAD POLICE SEARCHES AND UTILIZING STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS TO PROHIBIT DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF OPPOSITION.

3. TWO FPL COMMUNIQUE WERE ISSUED AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. THE PRESS CARRIED SHORT EXCERPTS, NOT THE FULL TEXTS. YESTERDAY, MAY 10, THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED AN QTE EXPLANATION UNQTE THAT BECAUSE OF THE STATE OF SIEGE CURTAILMENT OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NO LONGER PERMIT PUBLICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS OF POLITICAL STATEMENTS FROM QTE CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATIONS OF WHATEVER TENDENCY UNQTE. THIS WAS THE REASON, THE ANNOUNCEMENT WENT ON, THAT THE PAPERS HAD HAD TO REFUSE TO CARRY ADS BY INDIVIDUAL PERSONS AND GROUPS.

4. COMMENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S HARD ATTITUDE, REFLECTED IN ITS ADAMANT REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE, ITS INITIATION OF SECURITY FORCE SEARCHES AND ROADBLOCKS, AND THE NASTY EVENTS OF MAY 1, MUST HAVE BEEN READ BY THE FPL AS A CHALLENGE TO ITS RESOLVE AND COMMITMENT. YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE GOES WOULD NOW DENY THE FPL ACCESS TO THE MEDIA MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FINAL DETERMINANT IN THE TERRORIST DECISION THAT IT HAD TO EXECUTE, AS PROMISED, ITS PRISONER. LOZANO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, MINISTER COUNSELORS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANS02193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-0391
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770570/aaaaciao.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7dafba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2567468
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSASSINATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINS, PINT, ES, FPL, (BORGONOVO POHL, MAURICIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7dafba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009